# Town of Washington



## **News and Calendar**

**July 2006** 

## Island Rescue Squad Oversight

During the past few months the Town Board has been seeking ways in which to constructively resolve recent controversies within the Washington Island Rescue Squad, while at the same time recognizing the excellent emergency medical services rendered to Islanders, seasonal residents and visitors alike for the past 38 years.

The result of the Board's work has been the engagement of the medical director of the State of Wisconsin, Dr. Keith Wesley as interim medical director of the Washington Island Rescue Squad for a period of at least 60 days, beginning June 27, 2006. Dr. Wesley replaces Dr. Rajesh Patel in this position, while Dr. Patel continues as the Island physician at the North Shore/Washington Island Clinic and will continue to be responsible for providing advanced life support as needed by the Rescue Squad.

In addition, the Board asked the EMS Section of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, under the direction of its chief, Dan Williams, to immediately begin a comprehensive investigation of the Washington Island Rescue Squad's educational requirements, policies and procedures.

These actions were taken with the realization that the existing controversies within the Rescue Squad needed to be addressed and mediated by a professional agency removed from any direct connection to Washington Island. It needs to be stressed that both the Board and the members of the Rescue Squad believe that the participation of the State EMT Section and the State's medical director will be very helpful in assuring the Island of

continued emergency medical care of the highest order.

Underlying the involvement of the state is a proposed long-term plan to have the Rescue Squad work as closely as possible with the Door County Emergency Management Services, without coming under complete County control. This may include having the County's medical director assume responsibility for Washington



Summer at Schoolhouse Beach

Island at the conclusion of the interim period, and having the Squad come under the medical control of the Door County Memorial Hospital Emergency Room at the beginning of each run – as do the ambulance services in the rest of Door County – providing a seamless link with the paramedic squad that meets our ambulance at Northport. When advanced life support is required on Washington Island prior

to transport, it would continue to be rendered by the medical professional on duty at the time. (See next item.)

## New Clinic Agreement Goes into Effect

As of July 1, 2006, the new agreement between the Town of Washington and Door County Memorial Hospital/North Shore Medical Clinic has gone into effect. This agreement has been described in detail in a previous Town Newsletter (see the March issue available on the Town's web site). The principal change has been the mechanism to give Dr. Patel the time off that he deserves, while assuring the Island that a qualified medical professional will be available on the Island at all times. This has been made possible by a unique cooperative arrangement between Bellin Health in Green Bay and DCMH, whereby Bellin will provide Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to supplement DCMH physicians and mid-level personnel. These experienced professionals, all of whom are certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, will serve the Island every other weekend, half of the six major holidays, and during the seven weeks annually when Dr. Patel has vacation or continuing medical education. In fact, this system went into effect for the first time on June 28, when Dr. Patel left for continuing medical education.

## Revaluation of Island Real Estate to begin

A reassessment of all nonmanufacturing property on Washington Island, done by Accurate

Continued on reverse.

Appraisal LLC, will begin during the week of July 17, 2006. The purpose of the reassessment is to bring all values to 100% of market value and to meet State Regulations. Once the assessment ratio of a municipality falls below 90%, the municipality has four years to bring the assessments back into compliance. Currently the assessment ratios for Washington Island are far below 90%. If a revaluation is not completed within the four year time period, a revaluation would be mandated by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue at a cost far exceeding a normal revaluation. Therefore the Town Board has engaged Accurate Appraisal LLC, who have served as the Town's assessor for the past several years, to perform the necessary revaluation this year.

In order to value property on a fair and equitable basis, Accurate Appraisal will be physically viewing 100% of the properties on Washington Island. This process involves a walk-through of the home, taking approximately 10 minutes, and a check of the exterior dimensions to correctly determine the square footage of the home. If you are not home upon the initial visit, Accurate will measure the outside and send you a letter requesting an appointment to view the interior at your convenience. This process insures accurate data collection, which is an integral part of an equitable assessment.

If you have any questions, you may contact Accurate Appraisal at 1-800-770-3927, or by e-mail at info@accurateasesssor.com.

## Music Festival Hits a High-Note at Washington Island School

By Helene Meyer

This August 7 through 18 will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Washington Island Music Festival. Since 1992, musicians associated with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and other nationally recognized orchestras, have traveled to Washington Island to donate their time and talent. Each year for the past 15, these worldclass musicians, under the direction of Stephen Colburn, principle oboist of the MSO, have provided Islanders with

beautiful repertoires of classical music.

But that's not all that the Music Festival does ... proceeds from the Music Festival (benefit concert and auction; general fund-raising campaign, grants and ticket sales) support music education in our school. Because of the size of our district, and restrictive state-funding mandates, there is no money in the regular budget for music education. The Music Festival Committee of the Art and Nature Center has addressed that problem, and since 1995 has been using proceeds of the Music Festival's benefit auction and other activities to provide money for music in the school. Through the Music Festival's funding, our school children receive BRAVO music appreciation education in grades K through 6. Now in its tenth year under the tutelage of Donna Briesemeister and Diane Kahlscheuer, BRAVO helps children develop an understanding of musical vocabulary, form, and concepts, and an appreciation of the lives and works of famous composers. Also through Music Festival funding, Dan Hansen is able to further enrich the music curriculum for grades K – 8, encouraging students to create their own compositions and perform them in public. Dan also brings guest performers into the classroom where they demonstrate their instruments and engage children in live musical activities. This past year, the Music Festival underwrote Jennifer Graham's High School Chorus, whose lovely voices were heard (in six different languages) at their May 20 concert at the TPAC.

The Washington Island Music Festival does many good things for our Island community, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the concerts of this year's 15th anniversary festival, which will feature a world-premiere performance of Eric Ewazen's Island Songs and Landscapes, inspired by the poetry of our own Bill Olson. The Washington Island Music Festival certainly does hit a high note - for our community and for our school!

#### Burn Permit Procedures

Mann's Mercantile will no longer be issuing Burn Permits. Burn Permits may be obtained from Wayne Oscor, Fire Chief – 847-3202; Larry Miller - 847-2069; or from Dave Hanlin at Dave's Garage – 847-2275.

### **Road Ordinance**

In the June Newsletter it was stated that a public hearing would be held in late June on the proposed revised Road Ordinance. Since, for various reasons, this hearing was not able to be held as planned, the Town Board will consider on June 29 the possibility of postponing consideration of this Ordinance to the August Town Board Meeting to permit a full public hearing

#### Youth Activities Task Force

Creation of a Youth Activities Task Force was approved at the May Town Board Meeting and discussed in the June Newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a part of an informal network of adults and youth to provide a broader range of activities for the young people of Washington Island, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the Town Office, contact the Town Office, or e-mail me at chairman@washingtonisle.org.

## New URL Address for Town of Washington

The Town of Washington website may now be accessed at www.washingtonisland-wi.gov. The e-mail addresses for the town office and the chairman are still townoffice@washingtonisle.org and chairman@washingtonisle.org, but will be changed soon to the new domain

Suggestions for improvement to the content of the Town's web site are welcome. Write to chairman@washingtonisle.org,

